

Guam Ancestral Lands Commission

A Report to the Citizens of Guam

For Fiscal Year FY 2014



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Giving Back to Our People

The Guam Ancestral Lands Commission (GALC) was created by Guam Public Law 25-45. GALC is tasked with the responsibility to convey title of federal excess lands to original land owners once returned to the Government of Guam. Also, GALC is considered the Land Claims Facilitator.

Our Mission

“Administer the Guam Ancestral Lands Act in order that ancestral landowners, their heirs and descendants may expeditiously exercise all the fundamental civil rights in the property they own; establish a land bank to provide just compensation for dispossessed ancestral landowners; and when appropriate, assume the role of Claims Facilitator to assist ancestral landowners in pursuit of just remedies.”

GALC’s Board of Commissioners consist of 7 members. In addition, they are administratively supported by 2 employees. In response to the staff shortage, and needed land expertise GALC was merged with the Department of Land Management (DLM) through Advisory No. 9. Since the merger GALC has benefited from the expertise of the DLM’s Land Administration, Planning, Records, and Survey staff.

Goal

Increase the number of lands returned to original landowners and pursue more federal lands to be returned



Facilitating. Pursuing, Advocating. & Maintaining.

Returned Property

In FY 2014 GALC returned a total of 94 acres to the original landowners. This increased the cumulative total of returned property to 2,578.80 acres.



Land Bank

The fund that was created to compensate original landowners who will not realized the return of their ancestral lands is known as the Land Bank. For many years lease/license revenues from crown lands have been deposited into this fund. Unfortunately, no compensation has transpired as a result of no rules and regulations in place. In FY 2014 with the legal guidance of the Assistant Attorney General assigned

to DLM GALC board members initiated the process of drafting the rules and regulations for the Land Bank.

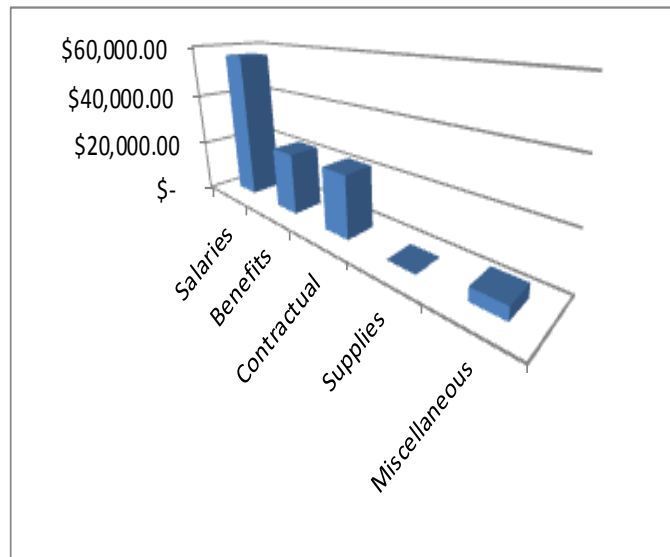
Financial System

The third financial audit conducted on GALC occurred in FY 2014. The two findings identified by the independent auditor were both related to GALC's financial system. In latter part of FY 2014 GALC's financial system was being created utilizing the accounting software Quickbooks.

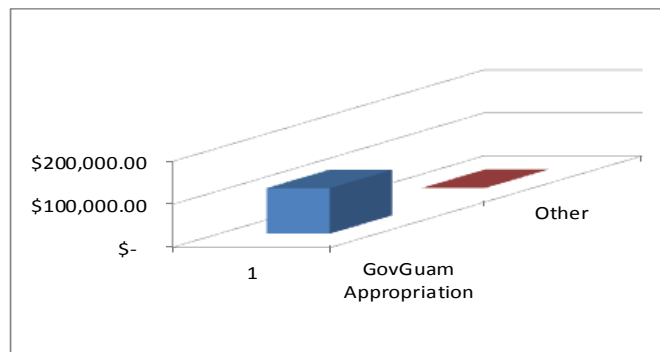


Ancestral Lands Operations Fund

Expenditures	2014
Salaries	\$ 56,388.72
Benefits	\$ 23,217.37
Contractual	\$ 23,000.00
Supplies	\$ 78.64
Miscellaneous	\$ 4,550.00
TOTAL	\$ 107,234.73



Revenue	
GovGuam Appropriation	\$ 105,985.00
Other	\$ 142.00
TOTAL	\$ 106,127.00



Land Bank Trust Fund

Expenditures	
Management Fee	\$ 84,510.00
TOTAL	\$ 84,510.00

Revenues	
Base Rent	\$ 577,220.00
Participation Rent	\$ 13,669.00
Interest Income	\$ 43,411.00
TOTAL	\$ 634,300.00

Landowners Recovery Fund

Revenues	
Interest Income	\$ 3.00
Total	\$ 3.00
Expenditures	
Miscellaneous	\$ 30.00
Transfer Out	\$ 900.00
TOTAL	\$ 930.00

Challenges



GALC for years has struggled with getting more federal land returned to the Government of Guam. GALC foresees this as an ongoing challenge in the future due to budgetary constraints.

Access and zoning is another challenge that GALC continues to experience. A significant amount of federal returned lands that have been deeded to the original landowners do not have proper zoning nor access. As a result original landowners are faced with the difficulties of accessing their property and utilizing it to its fullest potential.

Pending court cases is another challenge that GALC that has experienced and continues to experience. Currently, GALC is a Plaintiff in the Torres Estate case and a Defendant in the Anderson South/FAA case.



GALC has continuously been underfunded. Without the necessary financial resource GALC will be unable to recruit the necessary staff needed to process claims timely. Also, pay for other expenses that is necessary for day-to-day operations.



We Want to Hear from You

Did you find this report informative? Do you think we need more information added? If yes, please contact our office at 473-5263/7 or email us at galc@land.guam.gov.

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